

INFORMATION LETTER

Not for
Publication

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
Only

No. 766

Washington, D. C.

November 4, 1939

LABEL STOCKS REGULATION ISSUED

Food and Drug Administration Publishes Proposed Regulation Affecting Utilization

The proposed regulation regarding the use, between January 1, 1940, and July 1, 1940, of label stocks that do not completely conform to the requirements of the new Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, was published by the Food and Drug Administration in the *Federal Register* of November 1. The announcement calls for comment by interested persons not later than November 15, 1939. The announcement signed by Harry L. Brown, Acting Secretary of Agriculture, follows:

The following proposed regulation temporarily postponing the effective date of the labeling provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, pursuant to the authority of the Act of Congress approved June 23, 1939 (Public—No. 151—76th Congress), is announced for the purpose of giving notice to all interested persons.

The Department desires to have the benefit of suggestions and constructive criticisms from consumers, interested industries, and others before this regulation is formulated for promulgation. All interested persons, therefore, are invited to submit their expressions by letter not later than November 15, 1939.

The text of the proposed regulation reads as follows:

9.01. Effective date of certain labeling provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act temporarily postponed in certain cases. (a) The effective date of the provisions of sections 403 (e) (1); 403 (g), (h), (i), (j), and (k); 502 (b), (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h), and 602 (b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act is hereby postponed to July 1, 1940, with respect to any stock of lithographed labeling which was manufactured prior to February 1, 1939, and to containers bearing labeling which, prior to February 1, 1939, was lithographed, etched, stamped, pressed, printed, fused, or blown on or in such containers, if—

(1) each unit of such stock is identical with every other unit thereof;

(2) such stock is used by the person for whom it was manufactured;

(3) the quantity of such stock held by such person on January 1, 1940, equals or exceeds that used by him during any period of three consecutive months since January 1, 1939;

(4) such person keeps until July 1, 1941, complete records showing the quantity of such stock held by him at the beginning and end of such three-month period;

(5) such person makes such records available at all reasonable hours until July 1, 1941, to any officer or employee of the Food and Drug Administration who requests them;

(6) non-compliance with the sections of the Act hereinbefore specified does not make such labeling misleading by reason of its failure to reveal facts material in the light of representations made or suggested by statement, word, design, device, or any combination thereof in such labeling, or material with respect to consequences which may result from the use of the article to which such labeling relates under the conditions of use prescribed in such labeling or under such conditions of use as are customary or usual; and

(7) such labeling would have complied with the requirements of the Federal Food and Drugs Act of June 30, 1906, as amended.

(b) [This section relates to drugs and is omitted].

EXPORT PROSPECTS FOR FRUITS

Larger September Exports of Canned Fruits from U. S. Analyzed for Future Trend

The INFORMATION LETTER for October 28 contains a table showing canned food exports for September, 1939, compared with September, 1938, as well as exports during the first nine months of these two years. In connection with this table, canners will be interested in an analysis of export prospects for canned fruits, prepared by Clarence M. Birgfeld of the Foodstuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The principal features of this analysis follow:

Canned fruit exports from the United States in September, 1939, of 1,476,000 cases were at a record high for any month in recent years, and resulted from the pressure by British importers to secure early deliveries on all contracts made before the war. September is customarily the peak export month, but the current month's volume exceeded that of September, 1938, by more than one-third, and exceeded by the same fraction the average September exports of the last three years.

Exports of canned fruits for each of the four months (June through September) of the current marketing year were larger than a year ago, with the increases in June and July, compared with the same months of 1938, being only slight, and the first sharp rise occurring in August. Shipments abroad during the first four months of the current marketing year totaled 3,051,000 cases, compared with June-September exports of 2,389,000 cases in 1938, 2,109,000 cases in 1937,

Neutrality Legislation Enacted

As the INFORMATION LETTER went to press, Congress had just completed enactment of the neutrality legislation. Some minor changes in the bill as passed by the Senate had been made by the Conference Committee and this made it necessary that the conference report go to both the Senate and the House for approval of the changes.

The Senate approved the conference report without delay and approval by the House followed after brief discussion.

The bill went immediately to the White House and the special session adjourned.

and 2,587,000 cases in 1936. The outstanding feature of the trade was the marked gain in canned grapefruit exports, which amounted to 461,000 cases in June-September, 1939, compared with the previous three-year average June-September exports of only 149,000 cases.

England, which accounts for 80 to 90 per cent of our canned fruit export market, placed practically no new orders for these products during the first two months of the war. Shipments going forward under prewar contracts are reported to have been largely on a c.i.f. basis, and therefore do not include sterling depreciation or other added costs. A cable of October 25 to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce from the American commercial attache in London reports that the British trade expects heavy arrivals of American canned fruits in England until the end of this calendar year, with the likelihood of a considerable decrease in arrivals in the early months of 1940.

Considering the large British imports of last season and the satisfactory ordering of this season's pack until the war started, the trade in England believes that stocks there and "to arrive" are ample to large. The present consumer demand in England for canned fruits is satisfactory. All new orders must reflect, of course, sterling depreciation, our own price increases, and all other added costs, and it is possible that the resulting higher prices may affect consumption. On the other hand other food prices are increasing. The British food price index rose 9 per cent from before the war to the middle of October.

No controls (other than exchange permits) were applicable in England to canned fruits on October 25, and there were no immediate indications of any in the offing on that date.

No constructive appraisal can be made at this time of what may turn out to be added competition from dried fruits in the British market. The Foodstuffs Division cabled Istanbul in the latter part of October for confirmation of rumors from London that England might expand its purchases of Turkish raisins, and was informed in a cable of October 27 from the commercial attache there that the United Kingdom had already placed orders for 15,000 metric tons of raisins and might take up to 75 per cent of the crop now estimated at 76,000 tons. The United Kingdom took only 1,744 tons of the Turkish 1938 raisin crop of 73,500 tons, with Germany taking 55,258.

The United Kingdom took 88 per cent of our canned fruit exports in June-September, 1939, compared with 82 per cent in the same period of 1938. Part of the decline to other countries was caused by the sharp drop in canned cherry shipments to Belgium and the Netherlands. Shipments of canned cherries to those countries in 1938 had been unusually large owing to their poor fruit crops last year.

The marketing year June 1 to May 31, 1938-39, was a banner year for canned fruit exporters. The movement abroad of 8,366,000 cases exceeded the previous record export year of 1935-36, when 8,211,000 cases entered export markets, and was more than one-third larger than the 1937-38 exports of 6,182,000 cases. Adequate supplies in the United States at prices more competitive with those of other suppliers to world markets, and poor or below average fruit crops in many European countries were the principal factors responsible for the trade increase.

Canned grapefruit and canned apricots were the two items mainly responsible for the record exports of 1938-39. Canned peaches and pears, the two largest volume products, did not quite achieve their respective export volumes of the previous record year of 1935-36.

A look at the World War record shows that canned fruit exports from the United States to England in the year ending June 30, 1914, were valued at \$3,098,000. During the

following year, the first year of the war, they were valued at \$4,877,000, rose to \$5,071,000 in 1915-16, and then dropped to \$3,566,000 in 1916-17, and to \$3,010,000 in 1917-18. No quantity figures were collected for those years, and price fluctuations obscure the trend in volume. At the present time, canned fruits are much more important in the British diet than they were 25 years ago. Imports of canned fruits in sirup into the United Kingdom during the past three calendar years averaged 9,600,000 cases, compared with a 1,300,000 case average during the five years preceding the World War.

Early in September the United Kingdom completed an agreement with Australia, our principal competitor in the British market, to purchase all unsold stocks of the 1939 canned fruit pack. The exact amount of that obligation is unknown. Unsold stocks in Australia of canned apricots, peaches, and pears had amounted to 314,000 cases of 2 dozen 30-ounce cans on July 31, 1939. Exports of all canned fruits from Australia amounted to 1,300,000 cases (1,175,000 to the United Kingdom) from January 1 to August 31, 1939, compared with 1,369,000 cases in the first eight months of 1938. The 1939 Australian pack of canned tree fruits totaled 2,708,000 cases compared with 3,031,000 cases in 1938 and 2,328,000 cases in 1937.

SUGAR IMPORTS INCREASE 43.1 PER CENT

Receipts During First Month After Suspension of Quota System Increase 367,541,900 Pounds

Sugar imports into the United States during September, the first month after the quota system had been suspended, increased 367,541,900 pounds over the August receipts of sugar for consumption, according to Department of Commerce figures. This represents an increase of 43.1 per cent. Total imports of sugar for consumption during September were 1,221,120,056 pounds, compared with 853,578,156 pounds received during August. The sugar-quota system was suspended September 11.

The total figures for the two months include all dutiable and free sugar imports, both raw and refined. August import figures appeared in the INFORMATION LETTER for October 14, page 6014.

In the following table, compiled from a special report of the Department of Commerce, are shown the imports during September of dutiable and free sugar, receipts of sugar in the United States from non-contiguous territories, and an unknown quantity of sugar that had been held in bonded warehouses in the United States under the quota system:

| Origin | Raw | | Refined | |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| | Dutiable | Free | Dutiable | Free |
| | Pounds | Pounds | Pounds | Pounds |
| Foreign countries: | | | | |
| Cuba | 538,542,991 | ..... | 132,427,370 | 2,060 |
| Canada | 99 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Mexico | 19,818 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Dominican Republic .. | 14,354,800 | ..... | 38,600 | ..... |
| Guatemala ..... | ..... | ..... | 110,798 | 8,629 |
| Haiti ..... | ..... | ..... | 96,000 | ..... |
| Philippine Islands | 639,710 | 133,301,345 | 10,550,319 | ..... |
| United Kingdom ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 79,216 |
| China | 5,660 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Hong Kong | 700 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Total | 553,563,778 | 133,301,345 | 143,223,087 | 89,845 |
| U. S. Territories: | | | | |
| Hawaii ..... | ..... | 250,262,079 | ..... | 3,600,000 |
| Puerto Rico ..... | ..... | 116,652,982 | ..... | 20,426,940 |
| Total receipts | 553,563,778 | 500,216,406 | 143,223,087 | 24,116,785 |

The table below shows the imports of sugar, both raw and refined, by ports of entry. These figures include imports for direct consumption and also withdrawals from bonded warehouses within the United States. Through August, sugar brought into a United States port in excess of a country's sugar quota for that particular month, was held in bond until a later date when it was to be released for sale under the quota applying for the later month to the importing country's sugar. On September 11, of course, this quota system was suspended, and since that date sugar imports are permitted to go directly into consumption. Therefore, sugar brought into the country before September 11, but not released for consumption under the quota system, is presumed to be included in the figures in the following table:

| Port of entry | Raw | | Refined | |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | Dutiable Pounds | Free Pounds | Dutiable Pounds | Free Pounds |
| Vermont..... | 90 | | | |
| Massachusetts..... | 65,727,078 | 4,480,000 | 1,358,246 | |
| New York..... | 115,940,177 | 38,872,430 | 46,686,239 | 71,900 |
| Philadelphia..... | 96,684,581 | 26,391,691 | 20,730,615 | |
| Maryland..... | 39,389,136 | 39,597,545 | 13,578,232 | |
| Virginia..... | 967,659 | | 14,505,853 | |
| North Carolina..... | | | 12,229,900 | |
| South Carolina..... | | | 4,449,300 | |
| Georgia..... | 64,033,487 | | | |
| Florida..... | | | 7,552,425 | |
| Mobile..... | | | 1,600,000 | 2,000 |
| New Orleans..... | 136,658,711 | 23,959,679 | 440,000 | |
| Galveston..... | 32,702,372 | | | |
| El Paso..... | 19,818 | | | |
| San Diego..... | | | 110,798 | |
| Los Angeles..... | 553,710 | | 3,102,100 | 8,629 |
| San Francisco..... | 35,100 | | | 7,316 |
| Oregon..... | | | 2,400,000 | |
| Washington..... | 56,000 | | 5,048,219 | |
| Michigan..... | | | 2,799,960 | |
| Ohio..... | | | 6,496,600 | |
| Virgin Islands..... | 194,800 | | 134,000 | |
| Hawaii..... | 1,050 | | | |
| Total..... | 553,563,778 | 133,301,345 | 143,323,087 | 80,845 |

Food Stamp Program Being Expanded Rapidly

The food order stamp plan program of distributing surplus foods is being expanded rapidly. During the past two weeks, the selection of six more areas in which the program will be put into operation was announced. These areas and cities include: Madison, Wis.; Minneapolis and St. Paul (including all of Ramsey county); Minn.; Providence, R. I.; Bismark and Mandan, N. D., including all of Burleigh and Morton counties in which these two cities are located.

F. T. C. Issues Complaint Against Bean Shippers Association

Restraint of trade in the purchase and sale of beans and other farm commodities by members of the Michigan Bean Shippers Association, Saginaw, Mich., is alleged in a complaint issued by the Federal Trade Commission against that association, its officers, directors and members. The complaint makes all association members parties respondent as a class, those specifically named being designated as representative of the entire membership.

By means of their combination and agreement, and through their trade association, the member respondents are alleged to have computed and disseminated daily an "association close" price for choice hand-picked white pea beans (navy beans) in bulk to country shippers. This price, according to the complaint, was made up from bids reported each day

by selected association members but was not a true average bid. The "association close" allegedly was used as a basis for purchases and sales by the respondents and its use had a tendency to establish prices at levels favorable to the respondents and unfavorable to those from whom they bought and to whom they sold.

The respondents are allegedly to have fixed and maintained by agreement the differentials or "margins" to be received by elevator men for their function of buying farm commodities from producers and reselling them to jobbers and the differentials to be received by jobbers between the price paid by them to elevator men and the price at which the jobbers sold to the trade. This procedure, in connection with the maintenance of "association closes", allegedly foreclosed all opportunity for price competition by elevator men.

It is alleged that the respondents adopted a rule under which they agreed not to deal in "scoop-shoveled" products, that is, commodities handled by a dealer not equipped with the proper buildings and machinery for cleaning beans and grain as they come from farmers' vehicles prior to weighing. This rule allegedly was designed to discourage the use of a portable picker and grader introduced on the market in 1931, a consequence of which was a tendency to injure the elevator operators' business. Theretofore, it is alleged, farmers customarily had brought their commodities to the local elevators for sale, partly because the elevators maintained the only equipment available for the grading and picking process required for the sale of beans.

Among other alleged cooperative activities of the association and its members were the fixing and maintaining of schedules of charges for removing foreign and defective materials from farm commodities at the elevators; refusal to transport farm commodities free of charge from the producers to elevators or shipping points; fixing and maintaining uniform charges for elevator and warehouse storage; maintaining uniform schedules of charges for drying farm commodities in accordance with an established moisture and test weight table; establishing uniform contracts, terms and sale conditions and attempting to coerce others to use such, and maintenance of uniform price quotations for beans with Alma, Mich., as a basing point.

Food-Drug Act and General Regulations Published

The Food and Drug Administration has published the text of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as amended, and general regulations for its enforcement. The publication is entitled "Service and Regulatory Announcements, Food, Drug, and Cosmetic No. 1", and copies can be obtained free upon request from the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

The publication also contains the texts of the Acts of July 24, 1939, March 4, 1923, and August 27, 1935, respectively, defining wrapped meats as in package form, defining butter and providing a standard therefor, and providing for the inspection of sea food. These Acts remain in force and effect and are applicable to the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

Special regulations with respect to definitions and standards for food (section 401), food for special dietary uses (section 403 (j)), etc., will be issued later.

Veterans Bureau Asks Bids on Canned Cherries

The Veterans Administration, Arlington Bldg., Washington, D. C., has asked for bids on 300 cases of red sour pitted cherries, and 2,980 cases of Royal Anne cherries. Both are for No. 10 cans. Bids are to be opened by November 21, 1939.

General Questions for Census of Manufactures

General questions to be asked in the 1940 Biennial Census of Manufactures, beginning January 2, have been announced. The Census will cover a field employing more than 8,000,000 factory workers. Information will be gathered on the number of establishments; number of employees; amounts of pay rolls; costs of materials; use of power equipment; consumption of fuel and electric energy; expenditures for plant and equipment; inventories, and value and kind of products produced.

Hearing Held on Apple-Storage Exemption

A hearing on an application for the exemption, as a seasonal industry, of apple cold-storage warehouses in the Appalachian area from the maximum hours provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act was held November 2 in Washington, D. C. It is unlikely that a final ruling will be issued for a week or two. If the exemption is granted, the employment of workers up to 12 hours a day or 56 hours a week during a 14-week period, will not require the payment of overtime.

The Wage and Hour Division of the Labor Department announced last week that the processing of hybrid seed corn is a seasonal industry, and granted such processors an exemption from the overtime-pay requirements of the Act, so that the employment of workers up to 12 hours a day, or 56 hours a week, during 14 weeks of each year will not necessitate the payment of overtime.

The exemption granted processors of hybrid seed corn and the exemption requested for the cold storage of apples are provided for under Section 7 (b) (3) of the wage and hour law. This section directs the administrator to grant such exemptions to industries determined by him to be of a "seasonal nature". These exemptions should not be confused with the specific statutory hours exemption of 14 weeks in the aggregate each year granted canners of perishable or seasonal fruits and vegetables under Section 7 (c).

Necrology

Frank Raymond

Funeral service for Frank Raymond, a member of the Board of Directors of the National Canners Association, and production manager and secretary of the Fremont Canning Co., was held Tuesday, October 31. Mr. Raymond died suddenly October 29.

He was born in Kent City, Mich., and as a young man began working in the canning plant at Fremont as pipe fitter and processor. During the World War he served overseas as a member of the 32nd Division. After the War he returned to the Fremont Canning Co.

Mr. Raymond was for three terms secretary of the Michigan Canners Association, and had been for some time a member

of the board of directors of that association. He was also a past chairman of the Wax and Green Bean Section of the National Canners Association.

He was active in the life of his community, being a member of the Fremont School Board, Chamber of Commerce, Consistory, Shrine, and other organizations.

His many friends who were associated with him in the affairs of the Association and the canning industry will keenly regret the loss of Mr. Raymond.

Robert E. Francis

Robert E. Francis, 53, Indiana manager of the American Can Co., died at his home in Greenwood, Ind., Wednesday evening, October 25. He had been ill for several months. Funeral service was held in Greenwood, October 28.

QUARTERLY STOCKS REPORT

Census Bureau Issues Figures on October 1 Supplies of Selected Canned Foods

Canners' stocks of peas, corn, beans, peaches, pears, and salmon were lower on October 1 than on the same date last year, according to the quarterly canned foods stock report prepared by the Bureau of the Census in cooperation with the National Canners Association and the Association of Pacific Fisheries. In terms of number of cases, all sizes combined, canners' stocks of salmon were off 31.8 per cent from a year ago; peas 28.1 per cent; corn 17.6 per cent; beans 16.6 per cent; peaches 10.6 per cent; while their stocks of pears were about the same as last year, being off only 2 per cent. Figures on canners' stocks of tomatoes as of October 1, 1939, are not yet available.

Distributors' stocks, based upon a representative sample, of corn, beans, and pears were likewise off from October 1 a year ago, but their inventories of peas, peaches, and salmon were up 4.6 per cent, 24.8 per cent, and 18.9 per cent respectively. Distributors' stocks of all items but pears and salmon were larger on October 1 than on July 1 of this year.

Vegetables.—In terms of the number of cases, all sizes combined, canners' and distributors' stocks on October 1, compared with their stocks on prior dates, were as follows:

| | Peas Per cent | Corn Per cent | Tomatoes Per cent | Beans Per cent |
|---|------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Distributors' stocks, October 1, 1939, compared with— | | | | |
| October 1, 1938..... | + 4.6 | -11.1 | + 3.0 | -12.8 |
| July 1, 1939..... | +10.3 | +17.1 | +21.6 | +13.7 |
| Canners' stocks, October 1, 1939, compared with— | | | | |
| October 1, 1938..... | -28.1 | -17.6 | ..... | -16.6 |

The drop in canners' stocks, as shown in this report, offset in part by increases in some items held by distributors, provides a measure of the smaller volume of domestic canned goods available for distribution during the next twelve months as compared with the last 12-month period.

In the following table are given figures comparing stocks, sold and unsold of selected vegetables in the hands of distributors and canners on various dates. The figures for the distributors were compiled by the Census Bureau from reports of the same firms for each date. Canners' stocks, reported by the National Canners Association, cover the whole industry.

| Commodity | October 1, 1939 | July 1, 1939 | October 1, 1938 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| DISTRIBUTORS | Cases | Cases | Cases |
| Pears..... | 1,365,901 | 1,239,311 | 1,305,587 |
| Corn..... | 1,336,770 | 1,141,581 | 1,504,302 |
| Tomatoes..... | 1,093,944 | 899,579 | 1,061,874 |
| Green and wax beans..... | 653,359 | 574,838 | 749,614 |
| CANNERS | | | |
| Pears..... | 14,623,491 | 6,406,721 | 20,347,570 |
| Corn..... | 17,641,969 | 8,243,127 | 21,414,301 |
| Green and wax beans..... | 5,908,452 | 2,014,491 | 7,086,427 |

Peaches and Pears.—Stocks of peaches and pears in distributors' and canners' hands on October 1, 1938, and 1939, and July 1, 1939, together with percentage changes, are shown in the following table:

| Commodity | October 1, 1939 | July 1, 1939 | October 1, 1938 | Change October 1, 1939 from July 1, 1939 | Change October 1, 1939 from October 1, 1938 |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|---|
| DISTRIBUTORS | Cases | Cases | Cases | Per cent | Per cent |
| Peaches..... | 733,123 | 612,454 | 587,612 | +19.7 | +24.8 |
| Pears..... | 208,096 | 223,741 | 240,711 | -6.8 | -13.3 |
| CANNERS | | | | | |
| Peaches..... | 6,638,161 | 2,048,135 | 7,422,539 | +224.1 | -10.6 |
| Pears..... | 2,109,404 | 239,576 | 2,153,120 | +780.5 | -2.0 |

Salmon, Tuna, and Sardines.—Statistics are presented in the tables below showing distributors' stocks of canned salmon (Alaska Reds, Pinks, and "other"), tuna fish, and sardines (California, Maine, and imported). Based upon a representative sample, their inventories of salmon (all classes), tuna fish, and Maine sardines were higher this year than on October 1, 1938, but their stocks of California and imported sardines were off 12.6 per cent and 3.4 per cent respectively.

The following table, compiled by the Bureau of Census, is based on reports from the same distributors for each date:

| Commodity | October 1, 1939 | July 1, 1939 | October 1, 1938 | Change October 1, 1939 from July 1, 1939 | Change October 1, 1939 from October 1, 1938 |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|---|
| | Cases | Cases | Cases | Per cent | Per cent |
| Salmon, total..... | 288,812 | 349,200 | 242,941 | -17.3 | +18.9 |
| Reds..... | 112,085 | 119,244 | 78,090 | -6.0 | +42.4 |
| Pinks..... | 127,158 | 168,968 | 116,617 | -24.8 | +9.0 |
| Other..... | 49,569 | 60,988 | 47,634 | -18.7 | +4.1 |
| Tuna..... | 128,273 | 99,638 | 120,657 | +28.7 | +6.3 |
| Sardines, total..... | 122,632 | 133,741 | 106,338 | -8.3 | +15.3 |
| California..... | 43,453 | 71,905 | 40,702 | -39.6 | -12.6 |
| Maine..... | 51,797 | 30,205 | 28,281 | +71.5 | +83.2 |
| Imported..... | 27,402 | 31,631 | 28,355 | -13.4 | -3.4 |

Comparative data on canners' inventories of Alaska Reds, Pinks, and other salmon, compiled by the Association of Pacific Fisheries, are presented for September 30, 1938 and 1939, and June 30, 1938 and 1939. These figures represent the combined reports of companies accounting for 98 per cent or more of the total pack.

| Commodity | Sept. 30, 1939 | June 30, 1939 | Sept. 30, 1938 | June 30, 1938 |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | Cases | Cases | Cases | Cases |
| Salmon, total..... | 2,458,388 | 990,827 | 3,604,556 | 2,173,090 |
| Alaska Reds..... | 1,514,545 | 727,170 | 1,778,127 | 805,168 |
| Pinks..... | 636,843 | 76,599 | 1,270,016 | 1,123,298 |
| Other..... | 307,000 | 196,058 | 556,413 | 244,594 |

Schedule of Conventions

Tri-State Packers Association.—December 7 and 8, at Atlantic City, Ambassador Hotel.

Maine Canners Association.—December 12, at Portland, Eastland Hotel.

Northwest Canners Association.—January 3-5, at Seattle, Wash.

Fruit and Vegetable Market Competition

Carlot Shipments as Reported to the Bureau of Agricultural Marketing Service by Common Carriers

| VEGETABLES | Oct. 28, 1938 | Oct. 28, 1939 | Oct. 21, 1939 | Season total to— Oct. 28, 1938 | Season total to— Oct. 28, 1939 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Beans, snap and lima..... | 175 | 104 | 118 | 7,116 | 8,493 |
| Tomatoes..... | 400 | 340 | 405 | 34,301 | 26,868 |
| Green peas..... | 83 | 40 | 31 | 6,243 | 6,966 |
| Spinach..... | 44 | 11 | 11 | 6,883 | 6,470 |
| Others: | | | | | |
| Domestic, competing directly..... | 2,018 | 1,035 | 1,048 | 128,806 | 132,579 |
| Imports, competing indirectly..... | 77 | 77 | 91 | 651 | 637 |
| FRUITS | | | | | |
| Citrus, domestic..... | 1,973 | 1,983 | 2,048 | 69,059 | 82,722 |
| Imports..... | 0 | 1 | 11 | 77 | 31 |
| Others, domestic..... | 3,312 | 2,163 | 3,428 | 42,932 | 40,945 |

New Spinach Varieties Used in New York Trials

Several new spinach varieties recently introduced were included in trials this year at the New York Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva. Among these were Viking, a vigorous growing, medium green leaved variety with slightly crumpled foliage, similar, if not identical, to Heavy Pack with which it was compared. The most significant difference between these two varieties is the long standing character of Heavy Pack, it having been one of the slowest to produce seed stalks.

Darkie is another promising spinach variety, superior in color, texture, and flavor to any variety, yet it cannot be considered as suitable for commercial spring production because of its comparatively low yield and the presence of 4 or 5 per cent early seed stalk producers. It is a smooth, intense dark green-leaved variety with moderately dark, slender, inconspicuous stems. It was the slowest grower of any variety on trial. It is particularly valuable for breeding purposes and if the small percentage of early maturing plants can be eliminated, should be of considerable value for canning, freezing, and the home garden.

Other varieties included in this test were King of Denmark, Queen of Holland, Matador C, Supra, Dark Green Smooth Leaf, and Nobel.

Calculated yields per acre and other information concerning all these varieties is contained in the October 1, 1939 issue of "Farm Research", issued by the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva. Copies of this publication may be secured by request directed to that institution.

Old Firms Handle Britain's Increasing Imports

Opportunities for new firms to establish themselves in Great Britain for the purpose of importing emergency supplies for sale to the government are practically nil, according to the American commercial attache at London. The present war is beginning where the World War left off as far as the control of foreign trade is concerned, the attache points out. Much the same system is being established, that is, having various commodities controlled by an office set up under the Ministry of Supply.

In cases where rationing or quotas are established, such quotas or allotments will be imported through firms already established in the trade, and probably on the basis of the

volume of their imports during a specified period. As the war progresses, it is likely that definite quotas and rationing will be extended to virtually all commodities.

While imports into Great Britain, particularly from the United States, are increasing, such increases are in the old well-established lines and through well-established channels. As far as products outside of these channels are concerned, the principle appears to have been established of not permitting imports of new lines or new commodities, or the establishment of new connections until they can be investigated.

Larger Pineapple Shipments from Hawaii

An estimated 16,000,000 cases of canned pineapple and juice were shipped during the first nine months of this year, compared with 11,600,000 cases from January through September, 1938, according to the American Chamber of Commerce at Honolulu. Shipments of canned pineapple and juice during September are estimated at 3,000,000 cases, compared with 600,000 cases during September, 1938.

Japanese Red Salmon Pack Decreases in 1939

Although information concerning the results obtained by the North Chishima companies during the 1939 salmon fishing season is not yet available, it is understood that their pack of red salmon amounted to 210,000 cases, according to the American commercial attache at Tokyo. This production, with the 624,961 cases reported by Nichiro and Taiheiyō Fisheries Companies, indicates that the total Japanese output of red salmon during 1939 amounted to 834,961 cases, a drop of about 23 per cent from the preceding year.

Preliminary statistics indicate that the total salmon pack for the Nichiro and Taiheiyō Fisheries Companies, which account for practically the entire Kamchatka region catch, aggregated 1,471,539 cases. The 1938 salmon pack of all Japanese fisheries totaled 2,438,334 cases.

Overseas Demand for Canadian Salmon Increases

British Columbia's canned salmon industry is benefiting by a sharply accelerated overseas demand, according to the American consul at Vancouver. As a conservation measure, the Provincial Government will not issue any salmon dry-saltery licenses this fall, but will divert chum salmon, which is customarily dry-salted, to the canning and freezing trade.

The current season's total salmon pack, as of September 16, amounted to 1,098,522 cases of 48 pounds, a decrease of 135,708 cases in comparison with the catch this time last year.

Japan Hopes to Increase Canned Food Production

Because the Japan Tinned Foods Association anticipates a substantial increase in foreign purchases of canned foods as the result of the hostilities in Europe, the American commercial attache at Tokyo reports, the association plans to increase local production in order to place the industry in a position to supply buyers' needs.

Recent demands are said to have been unusually heavy and exporters apparently expect that this trend will continue.

Indexes of Employment, Payrolls, and Prices

Indexes of employment, payrolls, wholesale and retail prices, appearing in the tables below, are the latest available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. For employment and payrolls and retail prices, the indexes are based on the average for the years 1923-25, taken as 100 per cent; while for wholesale prices, the average for the single year 1926 is taken as 100 per cent:

| | Employment | | | Payrolls | | |
|------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| | Sept. 1939 | Aug. 1939 | Sept. 1938 | Sept. 1939 | Aug. 1939 | Sept. 1938 |
| All industries..... | 100.1 | 96.4 | 92.0 | 93.7 | 89.8 | 81.6 |
| Canning and preserving | 295.9 | 289.3 | 317.2 | 254.1 | 251.1 | 237.4 |

| | Wholesale Prices | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| | Oct. 28, 1939 | Oct. 21, 1939 | Oct. 14, 1939 | Oct. 7, 1939 | Sept. 30, 1939 | Oct. 29, 1938 |
| All commodities..... | 79.2 | 79.4 | 78.9 | 79.0 | 79.5 | 77.6 |
| All foods..... | 72.3 | 73.2 | 72.7 | 72.9 | 74.4 | 73.8 |

| | Retail Prices | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| | Sept. 19, 1939 | Aug. 15, 1939 | July 18, 1939 | Sept. 13, 1938 | Sept. 15, 1932 | |
| All foods..... | 79.0 | 75.1 | 76.5 | 78.7 | 66.7 | |
| Fresh fruits and vegetables..... | 58.5 | 56.4 | 62.7 | 52.6 | 51.3 | |
| Canned fruits and vegetables..... | 74.8 | 74.0 | 73.9 | 76.3 | 69.2 | |

Outlook for Canning Crops to be Issued Soon

The Annual Farm Outlook for truck crops and canning crops in 1940, reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Agricultural Marketing Service, will be issued November 14.

The first of the Outlook reports, on demand and price outlook for farm commodities in 1940, will be released Monday, November 6. Other reports, on the major agricultural commodities, will be released from time to time up to November 16, and will give the results of the analyses of the current and prospective supply and demand factors facing farmers as they plan their production and marketing operations for the coming year.

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